



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh R. Sharkey et al. Art Unit : 3739
Serial No. : 09/884,859 Examiner : R. Kearney
Filed : June 18, 2001
Title : METHOD OF TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TISSUE EMPLOYING ATTACHMENT MECHANISM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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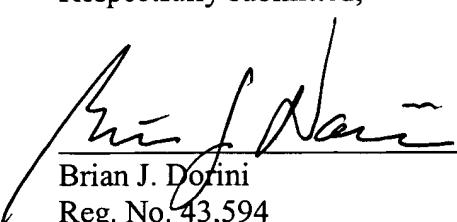
NOTIFICATION OF RELATED APPLICATION

Applicants hereby notify the Examiner that the above-identified patent application is commonly-owned and related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/792,628, filed February 22, 2001, the publication of which was cited as Document AC (Publication No. 20020022830) in the IDS filed April 8, 2003, and from which the present application claims priority, as seen in the Preliminary Amendment filed June 18, 2001. The above-identified patent application is also commonly-owned and related to U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/876,827 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,638,276), 09/876,833, 09/876,832, and 09/876,831, each of which were filed on June 6, 2001; and U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/776,231 and 09/776,186, both of which were filed on February 1, 2001.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: FEBRUARY 4, 2004


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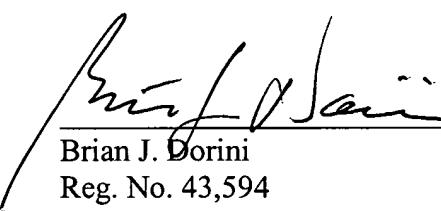
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

This statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office action on the merits after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

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